

lawlessness to rule our streets and thugs to terrorize our citizens.

Mr. Speaker, these are the reasons I support the Contract With America. It represents real change that most Americans can support.

I urge the defenders of the status quo to reflect on one thing: Can our children afford to continue on the path you advocate? For most people, the answer is clearly no.

SOLVING THREE PROBLEMS AT ONE TIME

(Mr. FLAKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, during the course of the last several months, as we have been in the House there have been three issues that have been discussed in some manner, one of them being capital gains breaks for the rich, one of them being adjusting the minimum wage, trying to adjust the wage by which we increase the payments to those who are the working poor, as well as welfare reform.

I come today offering a solution to all of it. Let us give capital gains reductions, let us target it so we give minimum wage to the working poor, while at the same time as we move persons off of welfare give them an opportunity to work at a job that pays a decent wage.

We can solve all three problems if we can work together. Let us remove all the partisanship, let us not look at these issues as being disjointed, let us hook them up together, capital gains, minimum wage increase while at the same time changing welfare. We can solve the problem for everybody.

Win, win, win.

SAFE STREETS FOR AMERICA

(Mr. HEFLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, we have all heard the saying, "If you can't do the time, don't do the crime."

Unfortunately, the sad fact is that if you commit a violent felony there is only a 3- to 4-percent chance you will do any jail time. Looking at that another way, 96 to 97 percent of the time a violent criminal never sees the inside of a jail.

No wonder Americans have said that they have had enough and want their streets back.

When people are afraid to step outside their doors at night something is wrong. When people are afraid to sit on their porch, something is wrong. When fear of crime prevents many Americans in our inner-city areas from taking a night job or going to night school, it hurts all of us.

Even the wealthy who live in guarded, gated communities feel an immediate need to do something about violent crime. But for middle class and

poorer Americans, who bear the brunt of violent crime, this is a life-and-death issue that affects them every day.

If nothing else, we owe the working men and women of our country, the ones who pay the bills, safe streets.

REINING IN THE IRS

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, the IRS is loading up. Individual dossiers now on every taxpayer, not just your credit history and your wife's background, your speeding tickets, how about news stories, how about informant's tips and how about rumors, ladies and gentleman.

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Now, if that is not enough to pirate your software, check this out: It is not even confidential. Last year they slapped on the wrist 300 agents for snooping through tax returns. Unbelievable, ladies and gentleman.

And the Congress of the United States has allowed this to happen. I say it is time for Congress to act. What makes it even worse, when the IRS comes to the door with their Gestapo file and looks you in the eye, you are guilty and have to prove yourself innocent.

Do yourself a favor, do your constituents a service, and cosponsor H.R. 390 and let us put the IRS where they should be. They work for the American people.

APPROVAL RATING FOR CONGRESS HAS DOUBLED

(Mr. GANSKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GANSKE. Mr. Speaker, there is a new-found respect for Congress in the country. Republicans have only been in charge for 1 month, and the approval rating for Congress has already doubled.

The reason is obvious. Under Republican leadership we are working hard to keep our promises to bring big change to America.

Nowhere is that more apparent than in the crime package we are now debating. We are making tremendous progress in ensuring that the criminal justice system will be more concerned with the rights of victims and society than the rights of criminals.

And who will benefit most from our rough crime package? The middle and lower income classes, who live with violent crime every day. They know what we need to do: catch, convict, and confine violent criminals.

That is what our crime package is all about. And that is why we will continue working hard to see that it is enacted.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE A LIVABLE WAGE

(Mr. THOMPSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I stand in support of livable wage for all Americans by the year 2000. Congressmen CLYBURN and HILLIARD and I have introduced a bill, H.R. 768, that moves the debate from a minimum wage to a livable wage. Many Americans who work in retail establishments such as McDonald's already earn more than \$5 per hour. The current minimum wage of \$4.25 per hour amounts to approximately \$9,000 a year. No individual or family can live at a decent level on this income. Contrary to popular belief, two-thirds of minimum wage workers are adults and not teenagers.

The minimum wage has not been raised since April 1, 1991, nearly 4 years ago. For the richest country in the world, this is a national disgrace. All of us know that the cost of goods and services have risen over this time period. By supporting a liveable wage, we send a clear signal to the Nation of our support for the working poor.

Let us vote for a livable wage and index future increases so that all American families can keep up with the rising cost of living. My constituents in Mississippi deserve it. Your constituents deserve it. We must demand it.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

(Mr. CUNNINGHAM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, the San Diego Chargers were picked in their division, but then the season started; our Bolts pursued a vision. Often they would fall behind. They bested the toughest teams in the AFC. In the playoffs they beat Pittsburgh and Miami.

Then on Super Bowl Sunday, the 49ers won. I picked the Chargers. The gentlewoman from California, I had a 19 point advantage on her. I thought I had an advantage. Well, us males have thought that for thousands of years, and I guess we will never learn, because here I am to pay off my Super Bowl bet to the gentlewoman from California, the most prized possession that I could possibly own, El Indio chips and Mexican food, salsa and homemade guacamole, fresh from San Diego.

The 49ers are champs, and they will have our respect. But all the NFL will seek the trophy they protect. Should the San Francisco team return next year, I will still bet on my Chargers.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. I am happy to yield to the gentlewoman from California.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the gentleman for the great,